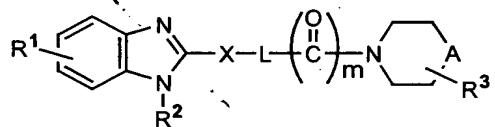


What is claimed is:

1. A benzimidazole compound represented by the following formula (I) or a salt thereof:



wherein,  $\text{R}^1$  represents one or more functional groups on the benzene ring selected from the group consisting of hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkyl group, and a lower alkoxy group;  $\text{R}^2$  represents hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, or an acyl group;  $\text{R}^3$  represents one or more functional groups on the ring containing the nitrogen atom and  $\text{A}$ ;  $\text{A}$  represents  $\text{O}$  or  $\text{CH}_2$ , or  $\text{CH}$  which forms a double bond with an adjacent carbon atom;  $\text{L}$  represents a  $\text{C}_4\text{-C}_8$  alkylene group or an ethyleneoxy linking group represented by  $(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_n\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2$  wherein  $n$  represents 1 or 2;  $\text{X}$  represents  $\text{O}$ ,  $\text{S}$  or methylene group; and  $m$  represents 0 or 1.

2. The compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 1, wherein  $\text{X}$  is  $\text{O}$  or  $\text{S}$ .

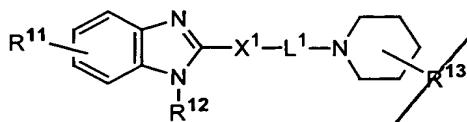
3. The compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein  $m$  is 0.

~~4. The compound or a salt thereof according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein each of  $\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^2$  represents hydrogen atom.~~

~~5. The compound or a salt thereof according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein  $\text{L}$  is a  $\text{C}_4\text{-C}_8$  alkylene group.~~

~~6. The compound or a salt thereof according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein  $\text{L}$  is a  $\text{C}_5$  or  $\text{C}_6$  alkylene group.~~

7. A benzimidazole compound represented by the following formula (II) or a salt thereof:



wherein,  $\text{R}^{11}$  represents one or more functional groups on the benzene ring selected

from the group consisting of hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkyl group, and a lower alkoxy group; R<sup>12</sup> represents hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, or an acyl group; R<sup>13</sup> represents one or more functional groups on the piperidine ring selected from the group consisting of hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an ~~aryl~~ group, hydroxy group, an alkoxy group, an amino group, an acyl group, a cyano group, a carbamoyl group and an alkoxycarbonyl group; L<sup>1</sup> represents a C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkylene group; and X represents O, S or methylene group.

*Sub A3*  
8. The compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 7, wherein L<sup>1</sup> is a C<sub>4</sub>-C<sub>8</sub> alkylene group.

9. The compound or a salt thereof according to Claim 7 or 8, wherein R<sup>11</sup> and R<sup>12</sup> represent hydrogen atom.

10. The compound or a salt thereof according to any one of Claims 7 to 9, wherein R<sup>13</sup> is a functional group selected from the group consisting of hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, a hydroxyalkyl group, an aryl group, hydroxy group, and cyano group.

11. The compound or a salt thereof according to any one of Claims 7 to 10, wherein L<sup>1</sup> is a C<sub>5</sub> or C<sub>6</sub> alkylene group.

12. A medicament comprising the compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 11 or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof as an active ingredient.

13. The medicament according to Claim 12, which is in the form of a pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof as an active ingredient and a pharmaceutically additive.

*Sub A4*  
14. The medicament according to Claim 12 or 13, which is used for preventive and/or therapeutic treatment of hyperlipidemia.

15. The medicament according to Claim 12 or 13, which is used for preventive and/or therapeutic treatment of arteriosclerosis.

16. The medicament according to Claim 12 or 13, which is used as an agent for suppressing foaming of a macrophage.

17. The medicament according to Claim 12 or 13, which is used as an agent for retracting arterial sclerosis lesions.

18. The medicament according to Claim 12 or 13, which is used as an agent for inhibiting formation of arterial sclerosis lesions.

19. Use of the compound or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of Claims 1 to 11 for manufacture of the medicament according to any one of

~~Claims 12 to 17.~~

*Sub  
AS* →  
20. A method for preventive and/or therapeutic treatment of arteriosclerosis, which comprises the step of administering a preventively and/or therapeutically effective amount of the compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 11 or a physiologically acceptable salt thereof to a mammal including human.

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